

Groundwater Breakout

**October 6th, 2004
SOLEC 2004**

Discussion Worksheet Questions and Answers

Number of Worksheets Submitted: 1

Focus Question 1: What are these indicators telling us? Are the individual indicators and overall assessments correct and useful? Are they telling us things that can lead to better restoration and protection of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem?

- Good start in defining what indicators can be applied to describe groundwater quality/quantity
- Need further development to provide better understanding of role of groundwater management of the Great Lakes

Focus Question 2: What refinements, simplifications, or enhancements would you propose: To the assessment process? To the bundling of indicators?

- Need to define geographic areas to which groundwater indicators can be applied e.g. Lake Ontario basin groundwater indicator could be total groundwater contribution to Lake Ontario, however no target can be established
- Approach groundwater indicators on a watershed or aquifer basis; targets can be defined based on drinking water objectives; use natural background as basis for reporting change.

Focus Question 3: What are the key management implications that emerge from evaluating the indicators in this category?

- Need to better define existing available groundwater resource on an aquifer basis, and defining aquifers for application of groundwater indicators (some work underway to do this)
- Groundwater level data used as indicator of groundwater availability of charge due to withdrawal; targets can be set based on available resource and water budget for that watershed – allow for growth and development.